

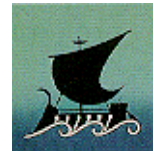


MEDAR/MEDATLAS II

Mediterranean Data Archaeology and Rescue & Mediterranean Atlas

(MAS3-CT98-0174/IC20-CT98-0103)

MEDAR GROUP



The objective of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS II project is to rescue, safeguard and make available a comprehensive data set of oceanographic parameters collected in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, through a wide co-operation of the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. The MEDAR consortium involves 20 organisations of 17 countries and scientific advisers from international organisations

It aims to contribute to increase the use of the data collected within the scientific programmes, to enhance exchange of information and data between projects and to improve the overall level of data quality. It also aims to enhance the existing data management structures through job training and workshops in data qualifying, processing, mapping, exchange and finally to contribute to develop sustainable regional capacity building for the Mediterranean scientific and operational programmes. This project has been endorsed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

he project tasks are :

- 1) to compile, safeguard and make available historical data sets of :

♦ Temperature	♦ Salinity	♦ pH
♦ Oxygen	♦ Nitrate	♦ H ₂ S
♦ Nitrite	♦ Ammonia	♦ Alkalinity
♦ Total Nitrogen	♦ Phosphate	♦ Chlorophyll-a
♦ Total Phosphorus	♦ Silicate	♦

These parameters are requested by the modeller and sufficient preliminary knowledge on their distribution is available through GODAR to allow quality checks to be performed. The data compilation, from the different source laboratories and the submission to the archiving centres, are done in each country by the UNESCO/IOC National Co-ordinator for International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange. Special attention is given to the East, South and coastal regions.

- 2) to make the archived data sets comparable and compatible by using the common MEDATLAS protocol for formatting and quality checking, in accordance with the internationally agreed standards published by UNESCO/IOC, ICES and MAST ;
- 3) to prepare and disseminate qualified value added products by using an efficient gridding and mapping methodology developed with the Variational Inverse Model of MODB (MAS2-CT93-0075-BE);
- 4) to publish the observed data, gridded data, maps and related documentation on CDrom for further scientific, educational, industrial and governmental use.

Quality Assurance

All of the data sets are first transcoded in the common MEDATLAS format. The data sets are then checked for quality (QC) in regional qualification centres, by implementing automatic (objective) and visual (subjective) checks. These checks are based on the preliminary knowledge of the parameter's distribution. As a result, the observations are not changed, but a quality flag is attached to each numerical value.

Data Availability

The observed and analysed climatological data and maps on a 1/4*1/4 degree grid and 28 vertical levels from the MEDATLAS 1997 and MODB 1996 releases are available on CDrom and on WWW for the gridded data.

Perspectives

The updated database, the climatological statistics and the methodology implemented to process and exchange these data will constitute a basic capacity of the Mediterranean NODC/DNA to meet the requirements of the forthcoming operational oceanography.

More information on the web site : <http://www.ifremer.fr/medar/>